In addition, under the solar photogoltaic programme of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, the Gujarat Energy Development Agency (GEDA) have distributed, 7,712 solar lanterns and installed 370 home lighting systems, 346 street lighting systems and 3 village level power plants of 15 kWp aggregate capacity in the State up to 30th June, 1998. A further 200 solar home lighting systems and 5,000 solar lanterns have been allocated to Gujarat by the Ministry during 1998-99.

Hike in Charges of Farakka and Kahalgaon plants of NTPC

250. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fixed charges of Farakka and Kahalgaon plants of National Thermal Power Corporation have been hiked recently with retrospective effect from 1st April, 1995;

(b) if so, the financial implications of the same on respective SEBs and consumers;

(c) whether a rate of return on equity of these plants has also been raised from 12% to 16%;

(d) if so, the financial implications of the same;

(e) whether the above have the approval of Central electricity Regulatory Commission; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Consequent upon expirty of validity of tariff for sale of power from Farakka STPS Stage-I (600 MW) on 31.12.1994 and declaration of commercial operation of unit V (500 MW) at Farakka STPS with effect from 1.4.1995 the refixation of tariff for Farakka STPS stage-I (600 MW) with effect from 1.1.1995 and Farakka STPS (1100 MW) with effect from 1.4.1995 notified by the Ministry of Power vide notification dated 5.11.1998 has resulted in the increase in the fixed charges of the project. Similarly for Kahalgaon STPS refixation of tariff notified vide Ministry of Power notification dated 10.10.1997, 1.1.1998 and 9.12.1998 respectively with effect from 1.4.1995, 1.2.1996 and 1.8.1996, being the dates of declaration of commercial operation of unit 2, 3, and 4 has resulted in the increase in the fixed charges for the plant.

(b) In line with the provisions of tariff notifications for various power stations, the billing of fixed charges from the date of commercial operation of the respective generating units was done on provisional basis by pro-rata increase of the already notified fixed charges in proportion to increase in the installed capacity. Subsequently, the likely revision in fixed charges was worked out by Central Electricity Authority and communicated to the State Electricity Board in Eastern Region on 7.8.1996.

The fixed charges of Farakka STPS (1100 MW) based on notification issued on 5.11.1998 work out to Rs. 426.98 crores per year. The variable charges as notified are 32.17 P/KWH with effect from 1.4.1995 and are subject to monthly Fuel Price Adjustment based on actual price and GCV of fuel burnt each month.

The fixed charges of Kahalgaon STPS (840 MW) based on notification issued on 9.12.1998 are Rs. 441.48 crores per year. The variable charge as notificed are 50.86 P/KWH with effect from 1.8.1996 and are subject to Fuel Price Adjustment based on actual Price and GCV of fuel burnt each month.

The above fixed and variable charges are billed to State Electricity Board on a Monthly basis as per Regional Energy Accounts issued by Eastern Regional Electricity Board each Month.

The financial implication of Farakka STPS (1100 MW) tariff compared to what had been intimated by CEA on 7.8.1996 is Rs. 2.06 crores per year and that of Kahalgaon STPS (840 MW) compared to provisional billing is a reduction of Rs. 50.77 crores/year.

(c) Yes, Sir. Revision from 12% to 16% on return on equity is effective from 1.11.1998.

(d) The fixed charges in respect of Farakka STPS (1600 MW) with 12% return on equity is Rs. 621.06 crores per year and with 16% return on equity is Rs. 677.86 crores per year. The fixed charges in respect of Kahalgaon STPS (840 MW) with 12% return on equity is Rs. 441.10 crores and with 16% return on equity is Rs. 477.88 crores per year.

Impact of increase in the rate of return on equity at normative level of generation i.e. 68.49% PLF in respect of Farakka STPS (1100 MW) and Kahalgaon STPS (840 MW) would be 5.92 paise/KWH and 7.30 paise/KWH respectively.

(c) No, Sir.

(f) The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission could consider according approval to such proposals only after regulations for fixation of tariff are notified by it. Till then, the Government of India continues to determine the tariff of Central Generating Companies under Section 43A(2) of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948.

निजी क्षेत्र की विद्युत परियोजनाओं के लिए पैकेज

251. **श्री गोपाल सिंह सोलंकी:** क्या विद्युत मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार निजी विद्युत क्षेत्र के लिए एक बड़ा पैकेज घोषित करने का विचार रखती है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसकी मुख्य विशेषताएं क्या-क्या है;

(ग) उक्त पैकेज को कब तक घोषित कर दिया जाएगा; और

(घ) इस पैकेज के फलस्वरूप विद्युत संबंधी स्थिति में किस हद तक सुधार होने की संभावना है?

विद्युत मंत्री, संसदीय कार्य मंत्री और गैर-पारम्परिक ऊर्जा स्रोत मंत्री (श्री पी०आर० कुमारमंगलम): (क) निजी क्षेत्र की विद्युत स्कीमों की विकास प्रक्रिया को सरल और कारगर बनाने के लिए अधिकाधिक निजी क्षेत्र भागीदारी को प्रोत्साहित करने से संबंधित वर्ष 1991 में घोषित नीति की समय-समय पर समीक्षा की जाती है। हाल ही में किए गए कुछ आरंभिक कार्यों में विदेशी प्रत्यक्ष निवेश के लिए स्वचालित अनुमोदन के क्षेत्र को उदार बनाना, प्रति गारंटी जारी करने की प्रक्रिया को सरल बनाना, प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक बोली प्रक्रिया की पद्धति में सुधार लाना, सुधार को प्रोत्साहन प्रदान करके रा०वि०बो० की साख अभिवृद्धि, विद्युत उत्पादन के लिए द्रव ईंधनों के प्रयोग संबंधी नीति में संशोधन और बहु-राज्यीय मेगा विद्युत परियोजनाओं के विकास संबंधी संशोधित नीति की घोषणा आदि शामिल है। वर्तमान में निजी विद्युत क्षेत्र के लिए किसी बड़े पैकेज की घोषणा करने का कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है।

(ख) से (घ) प्रश्न उत्पन्न नहीं होते।

Visakhapatnam Power Project

252. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far on Visakhapatnam Power Project;

(b) the reasons for slow progress; and

(c) the steps proposed to remove inter-ministerial tussle of Coal, Finance and Railway Ministers to expedite completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGLAM): (a) to (c) The 1040 MW Visakhapatnam Thermal Power Project in Andhra Pradesh being promoted by M/s Hinduja National Power Corporation Limited (HNPCL) has received the counter guarantee of Government of of India on August 19, 1998. M/s HNPCL has since signed the requisite agreements with the